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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/551,711	10/03/2005	Kevin John Hartle	29390-1	6193
21130	7590	04/01/2009	EXAMINER	
BENESCH, FRIEDLANDER, COPLAN & ARONOFF LLP			WILLIAMS, MAURICE L	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/551,711	HARTLE, KEVIN JOHN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MAURICE WILLIAMS	3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 30-32,34-46 and 48-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 30-32,34-46 and 48-58 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 30-32, 34-40, 42-44, 46, 48-52, 55-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pardy (GB 2,265,959) in view of Ragout et al. (US 5,518,034). Pardy discloses:

A fluid pressure disturbance damping arrangement, and a method of damping, comprising: an elongate flexible damping hose (**Figs. 2-4**) in fluid communication with a return line (**Fig. 1**), a non-circular cross section area the peripheral wall being responsive to impulsive or vibrational pressure disturbances in the contained fluid to deform and restore locally changing the shape of the cross-section area (col. 1, ln. 30-31) to dissipate energy.

The peripheral wall of the damping hose is arranged to define different cross-sectional areas at different longitudinal positions (**Fig. 5**)

Regarding claims 32 and 46

The peripheral wall is configured to change shape in response to contained fluid pressure disturbances without storing disturbance energy solely as elastic stretching of the peripheral wall (pg. 1, ln. 30-pg. 2, ln. 1)

The damping hose has two opposing first wall parts normally closer together than two

orthogonally disposed opposing second wall parts (**Fig. 4**)

The peripheral wall has a shape defining a generally elliptical cross-section. (**Fig. 4**)

The damping hose is provided in fluid communication with the return line of the fluid actuation device and holds hydraulic fluid (**Fig. 1**; pg. 2, ln. 31-32), and is between the actuator and return line (pg. 3, ln. 7-8 explains how connectors are used at **30** to connect the pipes).

The damping hose is of fixed length (**Fig. 1**)

Pardy discloses as discussed above, but does not directly disclose a wall construction of interwoven strands having a substantially fixed cross section. Ragout discloses a hose having a wall of a substantially fixed length in the cross sectional plane (Figs. 1 and 2) with interwoven strands (Fig. 4). The peripheral wall of Ragout also has different cross-sectional areas in different positions in response to pressure disturbances (Fig. 2; col. 5, ln. 27-30). Ragout also discloses that the walls contact each other in the absence of pressure (Fig. 4A). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify Pardy as taught by Ragout in order to increase the strength/ resistance of the hose wall and protect the hose.

3. Claims 34, 41, 45, 53, 54 and 58 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pardy in view of Ragout as applied to claims 30, 42 and 56 above, and further in view of Ozeki (US 6,176,147). Pardy and Ragout discloses as discussed above, but does not directly disclose a vehicle power steering rack that supports the

damping hose. Ozeki discloses a hose (**54**), which delivers hydraulic fluid (col. 1, ln. 6) and is disposed along a rack casing (**22**).

Therefore it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Pardy as taught by Ragout and Ozeki in order to place the damping hose in a hydraulic steering system in a position which will not obstruct the other components in the vehicle.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, see Arguments, filed 12/29/2008, with respect to the § 103 rejections in view of Ragout have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found prior art.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MAURICE WILLIAMS whose telephone number is (571)272-4263. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Maurice Williams/
Examiner, Art Unit 3611
Maurice Williams
Examiner
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MLW
March 26, 2009

/Paul N. Dickson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3611